

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 TRSE-00 L-03 USPS-02 EB-11 OC-06 CCO-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /061 W

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R 231707Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8212

SECDEF WASHDC UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USNMR SHAPE UNN

USDELMC UNN

USCINCEUR UNN

CINCUSAFE UNN

CINCUSAREUR UNN

USAFPCS DISTBRUSSELS BELGIUM

USAFPCS EUR ME RGN, RHEIN MAIN AB GERMANY//DO

NATO/SHAPE SUPPORT GROUP BELGIUM UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USAFPCS ALEX VA//DO UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 4193

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, MARRA, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN CUSTOMS AND THE APO

REF: CINCUSAREUR 201600Z JUL 73

1. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT US AGREEMENT TO COMMENCE TRIAL PERIOD OF CUSTOMS INSPECTION SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN UNTIL INTERESTED US AGENCIES AND COMMANDS HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT. WE INVITE ALL ACTION ADDRESSEES IN EUROPE TO SEND ONE OR TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO BRUSSELS FOR A MEETING AT 10:30 A. M., FRIDAY, JULY 27 AT THE EMBASSY. PLEASE INFORM THE EMBASSY OF ANY LODGING REQUIREMENTS ASAP. REQUEST TRAVELLERS MAKE OWN TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS. EMBASSY CONTACT IS POLITICAL
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OFFICER ALAN BERLIND, TELEPHONE 13.38.30, EXTENSION 372.

2. MEANWHILE, WE SUGGEST THAT APO ZAVENTEM, IF PRESSED BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, REQUEST DELAY IN COMMENCING TRIAL PERIOD PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AMONG US AGENCIES AND BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND BELGIAN OFFICIALS.

3. IN OUR TALKS THIS WEEK AT THE FINANCE, FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES (PARA 3 OF BRUSSELS 4021), WE WILL EXPLORE BELGIAN FLEXIBILITY ON SUCH MATTERS AS INCREASING THE BELGIAN FRANC FIGURES ON GOODS SUBJECT TO DUTY OR REQUIRING LICENSES, RESTRICTING CUSTOMS INSPECTION TO INFREQUENT CHECKS, AND ASSURING THE APO MAIL WILL NEVER PHYSICALLY LEAVE US CHANNELS. OUR PRIMARY AIM, WILL BE TO CONVEY OUR CONVICTION THAT THE ASSESSMENT OF DUTIES ON APO PARCELS WOULD BE UNIQUE, ADMINISTRATIVELY INTOLERABLE, POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, AND CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF COMMON DEFENSE THAT CHARACTERIZES THE PRESENCE OF US FORCES IN BELGIUM. BOOCHEVER

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